

Joint Communiqué
The 11th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting
Among Japan, Korea and China

June 13-14, 2009, Beijing, People's Republic of China

Preamble

1. We, namely, Minister ZHOU Shengxian of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China, Minister Tetsuo SAITO of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and Minister LEE Maanee of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, assembled for the 11th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting on June 13-14, 2009 in Beijing, PRC, and reaffirmed our commitment to the pursuit of the shared vision of equity and development for the region.

Commitment Recalling

2. We noted the commitment made by our leaders at the Trilateral Summit in Fukuoka, Japan in Dec, 2008. We paid attention to “a new era of tripartite partnership which will lead to the peace and sustainable development in the region” supported by the Joint Statement for Tripartite Partnership, and recognized the role TEMM played as an important constituent of the Trilateral Summit.

A Decade of Achievement

3. We shared our views on the progress of tripartite cooperation during the past decade since TEMM 1. We reached consensus that TEMM was of vital importance in promoting regional environmental cooperation and achieving sustainable development in the Region. We expressed appreciation for the achievements on priority areas in the last 10 years. We observed that considerable progress had been

made under TEMM, such as Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN), Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society, Joint Research on Dust and Sandstorm (DSS), environmental industry, etc.

Green Partnerships for Fighting Financial Crisis

4. We emphasized our common concern during the global financial crisis. We called the three countries to advance green cooperation for responding to regional environmental issues and contributing to global environmental issues, and promote sustainable economic growth/Green Growth in Northeast Asia. We are confident that our efforts can assist us in promoting sound environmental management and green growth at this special moment.

Vision

5. Under the common understanding that Northeast Asia is one environmental community, we agreed to enhance the tripartite cooperation on information exchange including joint research activities, response to regional environmental issues, contribution to global environmental issues, and environmental governance in Northeast Asia with collaboration with other regional cooperation mechanisms.

Cooperation Priority Areas 2009-2014

6. We approved the following areas as priority cooperation areas in the coming 5 years in accordance with the new situation and our common concern:

- Environmental Education, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation;
- Climate Change (Co-benefits Approaches, Low Carbon Society, Green Growth, etc.);
- Biodiversity Conservation;
- DSS (Dust and Sandstorms);
- Pollution Control (Air, Water, Marine Environment etc.);

- Environment-Friendly Society/3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society;
- Transboundary Movement of E-Waste;
- Sound Management of Chemicals;
- Environmental Governance in Northeast Asia;
- Environmental Industries and Technology.

7. We entrusted the environmental awareness and public participation to become the significant influence on cooperation in the three countries. We welcomed the suggestion of jointly compiling the "Tripartite Joint Action Plan on Environmental Cooperation". We believed that this program is a systematic and integrated initiative which we will review and update regularly. We also welcomed the proposal on Developing Our Common Green Future: China/Japan/Korea Student Environmental Education Joint Reader. We showed the expectation of the meeting to be held in Japan in this autumn for networking environmental youth groups in three countries. We reaffirmed the importance of the "Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN)" and noted the Asian universities network titled "ProSPER.NET" in order to find a cooperative way of Environmental Education.

8. We expressed our concerns on the negative impact of climate change on sustainable development, ecosystem and the environment. We emphasized the need of making joint efforts to tackle this global challenge by promoting green growth and low carbon society. We recognized that the three countries should strengthen researches on co-benefits, low-carbon products certification, carbon market and technology development and transfer in the GHG high emitting industries for emissions reductions of the three countries, which contribute to addressing global climate change issues as well as achieving the target of the pollution reduction. We also expressed our determination that three countries will work continuously on reaching a fair and effective international climate change arrangement beyond 2012 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark at the end of 2009.

9. We considered that we had the common pressure from urbanization and the significant impact on unique ecological environment in Northeast Asia. We reaffirmed our commitment to promoting the biodiversity conservation and supported the performance cooperation under the CBD in the three countries. Ministers welcomed the Chinese government's efforts to increase the budget allocation on national biodiversity conservation during financial crisis. Minister Tetsuo SAITO asked supports from China and Korea for Japan's successful hosting of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010 at Nagoya, Aichi, and the Ministers reaffirmed that they will cooperate for the success of the meeting. The Ministers also welcomed Korea's effort to host the 5th World Conservation Congress in 2012. The primary objective of ecological environmental management is to conserve ecosystems and maintain environmental quality in the region. We recognized the need to strengthen capacity building on ecological monitoring for conserving biodiversity within three countries.

10. We stressed the need to pursue an appropriate measure to prevent and respond DSS (Dust and Sandstorms) in the region and appreciate that common efforts made by the Tripartite Director General Meeting on DSS among China, Japan and Korea held in Qingdao, China on April 16, 2009. With respect to the direction of cooperation, we noted that the cooperation priorities would be focused on DSS monitoring methodology, prevention technology, and capacity building. We agreed to consider DSS forecasting model and health impact in the joint research in the future with the involvement of important stakeholders. We also agreed to strengthen the capacity building on the above mentioned areas.

11. We stressed the need to pursue appropriate measures to prevent air pollution and to protect the water and marine environment in the region. Relevant joint scientific researches were encouraged on early warning, pollution prevention and control, such as photochemical oxidant, water and marine environment. We appreciated the joint

efforts made by the three countries within the framework of Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) including the progress of Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. We also recognized the need to enhance such joint efforts with a view to enhance concrete measures in each country to prevent outflow of marine litter including appropriate management of wastes and relevant materials.

12. We supported to deepen the cooperation on Environment-Friendly Society /3R/Sound Resource Recycle Society, especially policy formulation and technology exchange. We agreed that our three countries should strengthen cooperation in environmentally sustainable cities management.

13. We would pay continuous attention to the cooperation on hazardous wastes, especially e-waste. We considered that the three countries will enhance the collaboration to implement the Basel Convention to meet the objectives set out therein. We concurred in continuing our efforts against the illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, including the e-waste, through the continued dialogue among the three countries as well as the concerted efforts in Asia on the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste under the Basel Convention. We agreed that the three countries should enhance cooperation of E-Waste management on exchanging information and making joint efforts to combat the illegal transboundary movement, as well as the capacity building on legislation and enforcement.

14. We welcomed the progress of dialogue cooperation on chemicals management. We recommended making continuous efforts for further cooperating on chemicals management through exchange of information and capacity building.

15. We noted the importance of development in environmental governance in Northeast Asia. We reaffirmed the roles that the TEMM has played in promoting regional environment cooperation during last decade, and agreed to jointly study on the future development of environmental management regime in Northeast Asia. We

also noted that the enhanced cooperation is feasible based on the development of partnership between public and private sectors.

16. We reconfirmed the importance of involvement of relevant environment industries and reaffirmed the need to further foster cooperation in the field of environmental industries and environmental technology.

17. We shared the view that financial arrangement in each country is crucial in improving tripartite cooperation and tackling emerging challenges. We reaffirmed the importance of the efforts by the Environment Ministers of the three countries to allocate a budget for environmental cooperation activities in priority areas as specified above.

The Way Forward

18. Based on cooperation principles of openness, transparency, mutual trust, common interest and respect for our diverse cultures, together we will:

- promote environmental-sound development in Asia;
- submit the Leaders of three countries our contribution of “Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation Among China, Japan and Korea”, and
- make great efforts to realize the Green Economy by strengthening the environment cooperation in Northeast Asia.

TEMM 12

19. We decided that the TEMM 12 will be held in Japan. The date and venue will be suggested by the host country and subsequently confirmed by China and Korea.

Ending

20. We expressed our deep appreciation to the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China for hosting the meeting and its warm hospitality accorded to all participants.

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